



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 110th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 154

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, JULY 30, 2008

No. 128

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable E. BENJAMIN NELSON, a Senator from the State of Nebraska.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Father, our help and our hope, we honor Your Name. Lord, often when we need You most, we find it difficult to come to You. Sometimes we do not come because we are impressed with our own strength and don't feel any need. Sometimes our failure and sin blocks the path to You. Either way, Lord, it is pride that deprives us of Your blessings and favor. Forgive us, Lord, for finding it difficult to understand and accept the unmerited favor of Your grace.

Today, as our lawmakers reach out their hands to accept Your grace, free them to do Your will. Help them to see You are a Friend who can keep them strong and turn their sorrow into singing. Lead and guide them so that Your Name will be honored. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable E. BENJAMIN NELSON, led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, July 30, 2008.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable E. BENJAMIN NELSON, a Senator from the State of Nebraska, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following leader remarks, there will be an hour for debate, with the time equally divided and controlled by the two leaders or their designees. I will control the final 10 minutes and the Republican leader will control the 10 minutes prior to my statement. Senator LEAHY will control 10 minutes of the majority time. At 11 a.m. the Senate will proceed to vote on cloture on the motion to proceed to the media shield bill, S. 2035. If cloture is not invoked, the Senate will proceed to vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Senate tax extenders bill, S. 3335.

There are other matters we could turn to: the consumer product safety conference report, the higher education reauthorization conference report. They may be made available later in the week.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS TIMOTHY R. VIMOTO

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise because a soldier from my home State of Kentucky has fallen. On June 5, 2007, PFC Timothy R. Vimoto was tragically killed while on patrol in the Korengal Valley in Afghanistan. Private First Class Vimoto, who called the town of Fort Campbell, KY, his home, was 19 years old.

For bravery in service to his country, Private First Class Vimoto received several awards, medals, and decorations, including the Bronze Star Medal.

Private First Class Vimoto's Kentucky story may be more circuitous than most; yet I am proud to stand here and say we both hail from the Bluegrass State. Born in Hawaii, Tim's father is CSM Isaia T. Vimoto. Being from a military family, Tim followed his father to Army postings as a child.

This led Tim to Fort Campbell, KY, home to thousands of our brave soldiers and the 101st Airborne Division. Command Sergeant Major Vimoto was a senior advisor to the commander of the 101st. Tim attended Fort Campbell High School, where he made many friends and was part of the school's football team.

"Tim was known throughout the school as the kid with the biggest and best smile," says Shawn Berner, Tim's high school football coach. "He was always smiling and willing to help anyone in the school. . . . He was a very caring and generous person that touched a lot of people's lives in a positive manner."

"He's one of our babies," says Kesha Ladd, one of Tim's old teachers at Fort Campbell High. "When you teach on post, it's like you help raise these children when their parents are deployed."

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

S7709